

Command Sergeant Major Charles R. Kirkland

Hello from your home of the Regiment and happy 68th anniversary! Since it is that time of year, I encourage everyone to reflect on our history as a professional Military Police Corps. Although a great deal has changed over the years there are a couple of constants that prove to be the foundation of our success and relevance to the Army.

The first is our great men and woman that make up our ranks who prove to be the finest professionals that serve in any uniform. I have the honor of traveling everywhere our MPs serve and get to hear all the great things that you do. The conversations that I have with senior leaders across the Army are complimentary to say the least. Conversations always start with how proud of your performance they are and what we can do to get them more of you to enhance their missions. I thank you for representing your Regiment as you do. Please keep those serving in harm's way at the top of your prayer list and extend a hand to the families keeping the home fires burning. Your sacrifices are noted and greatly appreciated.

The second is our capacity to provide Law and Order as a professional Military Police Force. Let's not lose sight of what truly makes us relevant to the Army. Our law enforcement skills are what make us unique. This experience is what hones our abilities to think through critical situations, make and communicate on the ground decisions, build trust within communities, understand and enforce standards and I could ramble on and on. All of this produces a mature capable Soldier and leader with the mental capacity to effectively operate on the streets of Fort Wherever, Bagdad to Kabul. Any of us that have been in the Regiment for a while has seen the proverbial pendulum swing back and forth in this area before. Over the past eight years this pendulum has received its momentum from the effects of our OPTEMPO. Our focus has justifiably been on winning in combat and our attention has been placed primarily on combat operations. Inadvertently this has caused a skills deficit in our junior NCO's and company grade officers. This lack of experience will continue to degrade our abilities as a professional police force since this population is our pool of primary trainers and our future. Here are a couple of things to think about.

First of all your Regiment has been and continues evolving by right sizing the force (MPs and DACP), standardizing the size of our Battalion formations, implementing Training Readiness Authority linking Brigades to Battalions to name a couple of the large rocks so to speak. To close the gap in training we have increased the hours of Law and Order taught in all professional military education from OSUT through the officers and noncommissioned officers education and functional courses. We have realigned ASIs within our MTOEs and TDAs with more being planned to imbed L&O ASIs within all platoon level formations. All of these initiatives plus more will lay the foundation and bridge the gaps but they are not the end all solution. The solution is you.

The total MP family working together on our installations and while abroad is what will pull all of this together. It's all about relationships and good or bad "personalities". The senior MP leaders from the separate organizations (DES, DIV PM, SEP BN/BDEs, CID)

must cross talk and realize the mission we perform for the Army is bigger than their slice. Everyone needs to work together to resolve challenges (training and experience opportunities) at the installation and unit level. Resist the urge to look up for the answers. We can push the “big rocks” at this level but the true individual and leader development happens inside your grid square. Be innovative and figure out how to get your Soldiers, NCOs and Officers (in leadership positions) on the road, into the PMOs and gain the experience necessary to hone these critical skills that keep us relevant.

Our Department of the Army Police (DACP) men and woman are a critical part of the team and without them we would not have been able sustain our installation force protection during this period of high OPTEMPO. Large populations of our DACP are former Military Police men and woman. What I ask of our DACP is that you don’t forget where you came from! Use your experience and the continuity you bring to assist in the development of your MP counterpart. For our Military Police men and woman, accept that our DACP are members of the team. Work together to protect our communities, share knowledge so that we all get smarter and watch each other’s back. We can only get better as a professional organization if these things happen.

In closing I would like to once again say thank you for all you do each and every day in the service of your country, the Army and this great Regiment. On the eve of our 68th anniversary reflect on our history and recognize what makes us unique and relevant. Stay focused on the mission and find balance in training. Give Soldiers the skills to fight and survive on the battlefield as well as law enforcement skills necessary to protect our communities and train indigenous police forces while deployed. Here at the Home of the Regiment we will continue to work hard to improve all that we do in support of our Soldiers, families and the mission. Stay safe and don’t forget to enjoy yourselves!

Of the Troops and For the Troops! NCOs Lead the Way!